



*A painting by Ping Zheng*

### 3. Ping Zheng: The Voice of Water

McClain Gallery (Houston)

October 30 – January 8, 2022

From McClain Gallery:

“McClain Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new oil-stick-on-paper paintings by Ping Zheng (b. 1989 in Zhejiang, China). Zheng’s imagery is rooted in nature but operates in a richly symbolic realm where the vibrational energy of the natural world merges with biomorphic abstraction. In depicting landscapes both real and imagined, Zheng embodies a space where she has long found freedom and solace. *The Voice of Water* is the artist’s second solo exhibition, following our inaugural presentation of her work online in 2020.

In these recent works, Zheng captures the potential and sense of magic she feels through uninhibited self-expression. Each painting is essentially a

meditation, granting access to a place pulsing with symbolic potency. With reverence for art movements from spiritual abstraction to surrealism, Zheng's depiction of nature is integrally tethered to bodily forms: sensual curves, undulating peaks, orbs, and fuzzy textures often reappear. In "Shimmering Sea Mountain," a sun shines through a valley, and the resulting reflection off the water has an animistic quality: a painterly, yet cartoon-like chorus of neon-citrus ripples toward us, until it finally resolves into the calm of a mottled blue and green sea. As Barbara Pollock commented in her recent essay about the artist's work: "Zheng views light as a kind of life force, necessary to propel a painting into a relationship with the viewer."